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5E Factor; The Major Contributing Factors in learning Second Language

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Abstract:

In a current scenario to succeed in life one should know at least three languages; the mother tongue, the national and an international language, as English enjoys the status of associate official language at an international level, In last few years we have witnessed the increased need for an English-proficient workforce for companies trying to grow on a global scale. And Over the time companies will require more people to speak English and thus this will drive a bigger focus on English proficiency in education, both at the higher level and among young learners. So to meet the future demand, we have to prepare our budding aspirants accordingly. This paper aims to highlight the 5E' factors which has a major affect on learning Second language and an effort is to find out some solid solution to those problems.

Keywords:

Second Language, 5 E Language Factors.

INTRODUCTION

Globalization has increased the demand of English competency, which is growing world- wide and taking all sorts of employment sector into its grip. There is a tremendous change in the recruitment procedure over the past few years . Today recruiters focus on candidates communication skills and multi tasking ability .The association between the corporate world and educational institutes has resulted in and off –campus placements .The trend of companies coming to institutes and conducting campus drives is a welcome trend to establish firm academia-Industry relations, Students ought to utilize this opportunity. However most of the students fail to impress the recruiters in spite of excellent aptitude and technical skills, the reason is lack of communication skills. This is enough to realize that only knowledge in the chosen field is not enough, Proficiency in English/Communication Skill is considered as one of the important employability skill.

Realizing the so much importance of Communication skills in placement all private & government institute are focusing on their student's communication skills by introducing business communication/ professional communication and personality development classes in curriculum, students who pursue Technical or Professional courses ought to study this subject in order to improve and enhance their Communication skills. But the fact is that only handful of students are benefitted with that. The problem is Communication Skills is introduced as a subject in first year of all the professional courses rather than enhancing the communication skills students take it more as a subject in which they have to pass the exam. The result is students pass the exam with good marks but their communication skill remains inadequate.

Article published Dated 23/4/218, in TIMES OF INDIA "Road to better English".
"Experts believe that English should not be taught as a subject, as is the usual practice in India".
Hence it the high time to realize that after so much efforts why we are failing in getting the desired result. Why in the age of Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter we need to teach our students to speak? Why our students being excellent in all the fields, fail to learn communication skills? What are the major contributing factor that affects the learning? To understand the real problem, it's important to look in to the problem for where it deep rooted.

Language learners can be categorise as: -
Knowledge of English has not only become very essential for successful career but also to prove ones' presence in society as well, for some English has become a first language, but the fact is that English will always remain second language for most of us, and that's the reason why majority of people find it difficult to learn. If we look deep into the problem we will come to that how students are made the victims of our poor education policy, system which later affects personal and professional growth.
The students on the basis of their schooling can be categorized into two categories; the one is having Hindi or a regional language as medium of study from the primary level and other is having English as the medium of study.
Aggarwal (1984) "The English learners can be classified as the 'elites', the 'aspirants' and the 'victims',"
In terms of language learning the learners can broadly be categorised as elites, aspirants and victims. Elites are those, who enjoy all the luxuries of life, holds socially good position and are expose to the language form the early stage. Aspirants getting favourable conditions and exposed to the language learns the language by self-motivation. Last are the victims of their socio-economic conditions.
With reference to above here aspirants and victims are taken into the consideration as majority of learners fall in this category

5 E factors are: -
1. Environment- In Terms of Family and its background.
2. Economic Condition- Socio Economic status, income.

3. Early Education- In terms of schooling, private or government.
4. Examination Pattern –in terms of board or university
5. Evaluation system- marks and grading

All 5 E's are very closely related to each other. For some all above factors may not be problems in learning language and would completely deny the First two factors (Environment & Economic Condition) by arguing that leaning depends on self-motivation and practice.

According to Freud "The future personality development is dependent on these early experience, some of these traits expand up to the period of adolescence and adulthood".

According to the Article published in TIMES OF INDIA, "A Start in Life". Research shows That 90% of brain growth occurs by the age of five. This means that a child's environment and the inputs and supports they receive in the early years have a significant impact on their future –in school and beyond.

Environment & Economic Condition –

In our society where majority of people speak Hindi or other regional language at home. It is believed that personality development is largely dependent on early childhood experiences in which family environment and Economic condition plays a major role. Family and school are the two main social environments in which a child grows. These environmental factors determine the individual's socio-psychological perspective, and hence cannot be overlooked.

According to Bernstein's (1961) The language heard and spoken by children from lower- working class homes is different in content from that of the language substance used by children from a middle-class home background. The social interaction that the middle-class children have at home help them develop extensive vocabulary (elaborate code), while the working class children, deprived of this opportunity for learning, have learning difficulty in formal situations. Such a low level linguistic ability. Although any Language could be mastered by self-motivation and rigorous practice. But the surrounding at home and school do not allow learner to do so, Reason is firstly the learner them self feels shy in doing so and if he/she tries in day –to –day life, other rather than motivating often demoralize them by making fun of theirs mistakes and accent. Thus Socio- economic factors are closely related in language learning and development process.

Early Education
The medium of study right from early stage of learning also contributes a lot in learning and developing language skills ,which later determines once proficiency in language

The students on the basis of their schooling can be categorized into two categories; the one is having Hindi or a regional language as medium of study from the primary level and other is having English as the medium of study. So discrimination is created by medium of studies.

Second is "The three language formula", A government policy regarding to teaching and learning of English in our school and college is also responsible in making learners a victims of English reason is to blame the government policy is at school level the English is taught with Hindi and Sanskrit following the three languages formula, After class IX onwards English becomes optional. Students finding English difficult opt for other optional subjects .

The students form government Hindi medium schools & colleges lack the fluency in English, although being good in studies and securing good marks , students hesitate and lacks the confident during communicating in English. The reason behind is poor standard of teaching and learning environment in which these students have been nurtured. In contrast to that Big private schools provide education throughout in English . They appoint qualified English speaking staff to provide and maintain English speaking environment.

This difference can easily be is seen in the quality of students both produce. The students who hail from big private schools and colleges are smart, confident and fluent in their communication skills, because they have

been nurtured in such an environment.

According to Sharma. R : "English language teaching in India, has suffered a lot so much that our students who pass intermediate or degree examinations with English either as a compulsory or as an elective subject can neither speak nor write correct English, may be because the emphasis in our schools and colleges has always been on the conceptual content and the stylistic content has been neglected so far".

Examination Pattern & Evaluation System-

Our education system is centred around Examinations and Evaluation That means to conduct the examination and to give marks and ranks to students .The prevailing system of examination at all the levels of education suffers from a large number of drawbacks and requires complete overhauling. The aim of education should not be just stuffing the brain with bookish knowledge. But it should be to improve the character personality and skills of the student.

The present examination system is merely a test of memory, the innate talents are not recognized; instead students capability in writing examination is being tested with added emphasis on grades and marks. Which is a game of chance ,using unfair means and the mood of examiners count more than any rules or regulations. Sometimes a dull student may get through the examination with good marks and a brilliant student may cut a sorry figure for that all credit goes to our evaluation system.

The ability and worth of a student cannot be judged through a three-hour test. This system of examination is full of uncertainly, It is the most unnatural and unscientific approach of judging ones knowledge .

The other problem with it is both central and state board follow their own syllabus ,both have different examination and evaluation system . This difference creates a big problems like students who pass from Government Schools may fail to achieve the same standard as is achieved by the students of English Medium Schools in all the aspects. And Marks and percentage ones mentioned in Mark sheet on the basis of those three hours performance , opens or closes many good opportunities for the students for instance further studied ,admission in desired college and placements.

Effect on language learning

There is a misconception that children are just "natural" learners who effortlessly learns the language. All five factors play a crucial role in language development like Family and school are the two main social environments in which a child grows and learns ,so these cannot be overlooked.

In absence of supportive environment at early stage , poor knowledge of English, when these students at higher studies are suddenly put into the situation where knowledge of English becomes so important and forced to learn they finds it very tough and become the victims of it.

Solutions to the problems

Learning any new language becomes more easy when one is expose to the language at an early stage ,the success rate is higher in learning . We can hardly do anything about an environment in which one is brought up but if we can do some sort of changes in our education system, things can change gradually . Adding Right to Education as Fundamental Right , of every Child is not enough, Governments need to invest more in upgrading the standards of education at all the levels below mentioned are some suggestions that if seriously taken into the consideration can change the situation of our learners.

Our country is short of two million teachers and among the teachers currently in service not all are skilled enough to make students job ready .This results in unskilled work force hence there is a need to invest more in teacher's training.

All government school and colleges should focus on the extracurricular activities to develop the student capabilities in terms of writing skills, verbal skills, Communicative English with language Lab should be introduced at an early stage of learning .

The usual chalk and board concept has reached its peak and the modern technological classroom should be welcomed as it can help us bring in a new effective learning atmosphere and teaching methodology. The benefit in adding technology to the classroom will bring a significant change in student's perception of subjects.

We need to create tailored content for the student and keep a watch on the impact it is creating on them, For this teachers need to be trained in Technology.

To avoid future problems for the students, there should be uniformity in CBSE, ICSE and State. Board in terms of curriculum, grading system, Examination Pattern.

Now the time has arrived when we have to seriously think on upgrading and reconstructing our curricula according to global parameters.

The Government policy on ELT (Three language formula) should be reviewed well. As this also do not allows to provide equal opportunity of learning English. On the other hand pathetic condition, poor quality of studies, lack of teachers and infrastructure in government schools had contributed a lot in that.

All the other evils of our education system ultimately come down to the method in which students are marked. How far is it justified that a student is evaluated only on the basis of his/her performance for the duration of three hours of the exam? If the axis of grading and marking is shifted to classroom participation, project work, communication and leadership skills and extracurricular performance, only then will a genuine student shine out.

Last and the very important one all our policy maker ,leaders should understand and accept that In a current scenario to succeed in life one should know international language, They should stop politicizing the issue of matra bhasa and vidashi bhasa and provide such an environment to our blooming buds that they can survive in all conditions.

Conclusion-

Children are the most important beneficiaries of a good education system. Yet one with least power to shape it. We have known from the years that our education System is failing, Children are going to school but not learning beyond "floor level tasks " yet there has been no policy shifting. Parents choose to exit the school rather than pressuring it to change . Millions of parents pull their children out of broken government school and enrol them in low – fee private schools. Then they find that even private schools do not deliver much better results . Now is the time to cry out for an excellent education system for every child. How will our country grow in business and economy when there are very little skilled people to hire, Parents, teachers and employers must demand that our education system, institutes must deliver real capability and not just certificates.

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